

**GREEN RIBBON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**  
**Recap of May 6, 1999 meeting**

**Members in attendance:** Carole Bellew, Dick Brown, Nancy Coleman, Joseph Grassi, Donald Harding, Robert Lindamood, David McGowan, Frank Mastroianni, Beth Rubenstein, Albe Simenas, Anne Strong, Robert Winters, Fred Yalouris - *City Staff present.* Stuart Dash, Greg Garber, Paul Ryder, Lisa Peterson

At the beginning of the meeting, Beth Rubenstein announced a new appointment to the Committee: Anne Strong. Carole Bellew announced that Clarke Binkley is taking a leave of absence from the committee; he is traveling for work and is unable to attend meetings.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to a presentation, by Cliff Cook of the Community Development Department, of demographic information on the City of Cambridge. Cliff compiled packets for each member detailing demographic information in chart and map form.

After the presentation, there was discussion on the relationship between the information presented (particularly neighborhood population by age) and the development of criteria for making decisions on where to acquire land. How do we take this data and develop objective criteria?

There was a suggestion that standards be developed. For example: all children shall live within 1/2 mile of a tot lot. It was noted that we know where many affordable housing units are and will be in the future (i.e. Cambridge Housing Authority family developments).

There were questions about the expected impact of the 2000 census. Cliff Cook did not want to speculate but did not expect that the overall density and number of housing units would change substantially.

City updates: Beth Rubenstein discussed the status of the Squirrel Brand properties. The property is for sale, and the City is very interested in working with a non-profit to acquire the property for the development of affordable housing and for open space. Lisa Peterson gave an update on the acquisition of parcels of land on Fulkerson St, abutting Ahearn Field in East Cambridge. The City is also interested in these properties and has hired a real estate appraiser to value the property.

**Next meeting:** Paul Ryder will present an overview of permitted uses of the City parks.